

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) An apoptosis-inducing agent, comprising a substance that induces endoplasmic reticulum stress.

2. (Original) The inducing agent according to claim 1, wherein the substance that induces endoplasmic reticulum stress is at least one selected from the group consisting of tunicamycin, thapsigargin, and brefeldin A.

3. (Currently Amended) The inducing agent according to claim 1[[or 2]], further comprising siRNA against the gene that codes for Synoviolin.

4. (Original) A therapeutic agent for autoimmune diseases, comprising a substance that induces endoplasmic reticulum stress.

5. (Original) The therapeutic agent according to claim 4, wherein the substance that induces endoplasmic reticulum stress is at least one selected from the group consisting of tunicamycin, thapsigargin, and brefeldin A.

6. (Original) The therapeutic agent according to claim 4, wherein the autoimmune disease is rheumatoid arthritis.

7. (Currently Amended) The therapeutic agent according to ~~any of claims 4 to 6~~ claim 4, further comprising siRNA against the gene that codes for Synoviolin.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for inhibiting the proliferation of cells, wherein the cells are treated with an inducing agent according to ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 8, wherein the cells are synoviocytes.

10. (New) The inducing agent according to claim 2, further comprising siRNA against the gene that codes for Synoviolin.

11. (New) A method for inhibiting the proliferation of cells, wherein the cells are treated with an inducing agent according to claim 10.

12. (New) The method according to claim 11, wherein the cells are synoviocytes.

13. (New) A method for inhibiting the proliferation of cells, wherein the cells are treated with an inducing agent according to claim 2.

14. (New) The method according to claim 13, wherein the cells are synoviocytes.

15. (New) A method for inhibiting the proliferation of cells, wherein the cells are treated with an inducing agent according to claim 3.

16. (New) The method according to claim 15, wherein the cells are synoviocytes.

17. (New) The therapeutic agent according to claim 5, further comprising siRNA against the gene that codes for Synoviolin.

18. (New) The therapeutic agent according to claim 6, further comprising siRNA against the gene that codes for Synoviolin.